woman—in the history of the game. It was perfectly fitting that she scored the first goal of the tournament by half-volleying a Brandi Chastain pass into the roof of the net.

It is also fitting that Mia Hamm was born in 1972, the same year that President Nixon signed into law Title IX of the Education Amendments Act. This law ensures that federally funded schools provide equal athletic opportunity for members of both sexes. Twenty-five years later, the U.S. National Team is one clear sign that this law is a success.

According to the Women's Sports Foundation, the number of girls who participate in high school sports since the enactment of Title IX has risen from 300 thousand to 2.37 million. Women are now 37 percent of college athletes and were 39 percent of the 1996 United States Olympic Team members.

The record-breaking crowds this weekend in San Jose and Pasadena reveal that the enthusiasm for women's soccer is not restricted to players only, but is shared by the public. Over 78,000 loyal fans packed the seats of Giants Stadium to watch the US-Denmark match, and the weekend ticket sales total of over 134,000 surpassed the 112,000 for the entire 1995 Women's World Cup in Sweden. Ticket sales for the Cup to date have passed 500,000 and are rapidly growing—potentially shattering the 600,000 world record for a sporting event held for women.

The stellar start for the World Cup speaks volumes for the future of women's soccer. Female soccer players may not have to wait much longer to play professionally in the United States. The successful weekend attests to the wonderful athletic stars and enthusiastic fans ready, willing and eager to support a women's professional soccer league in major markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Chicago. Citizens both domestic and worldwide are watching the Women's World Cup with pride that our teams are pioneering the path to put women's sports on parity with men's.

The impact of gender equality in sports goes far beyond the soccer field and ticket sales. Female student athletes are more likely to graduate from college than students who do not participate in sports, women who are active in sports and recreational activities as girls feel greater confidence, self-esteem and pride in their physical and social selves; and 80 percent of women identified as key leaders in Fortune 500 companies participated in sports during their childhood.

The Women's World Cup is also an important way to bring together diverse nations of the world. From North Korea to Canada, from Ghana to Sweden, everyone shares in the joys of competition and love of the game. Television viewers throughout the world have been introduced to many countries and its players. During the first week of play, we saw the flamboyant Nigerian goalkeeper Ann Chiejinei confidently lead the ''Super Falcons'' to the second round. The Brazilian one-name wonders of Sissi and Preinha brought to mind visions of Pele and Romario in scoring the first hat tricks of the tournament. And Norway, which has played in the previous two World Cup title games, opened its title defense with three impressive victories.

So, Mr. President, I will make two predictions. My first prediction is that the United States will reclaim their title as women's World Cup Champions on July 10, in Pasadena, California. And more importantly, my second prediction is that generations of women and girls for years to come will continue to thrive because of Title IX.●

HIGHMORE RESEARCH STATION

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my warmest congratulations to the South Dakota State University Central Research Station in Highmore, SD.

Today the experiment station is celebrating one hundred years of dedicated service to the agriculture industry in the Northern Plains. It is an outstanding example of the continued application of technological advancements by our farmers and ranchers in an ever-changing competitive environment.

The Highmore Research Farm, also known as the Central Crops and Soils Research Station, was the first research farm created in the north-central United States. It was created in 1899 at the request of livestock producers who desired drought-resistant forage plants on the prairie. It was determined that a substation was to be established between the James and Missouri Rivers and a location was eventually secured near Highmore. Initially the work at the experiment station was centered around testing drought-resisting forage and devising ways and means for livestock producers to obtain winter forage as well. Later, crop production and rotation became an integral part of the research station.

Affiliated with South Dakota State University in Brookings, this experiment station has been a leader in providing and conducting state-of-the-art agriculture research. In Highmore and at the various other South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Stations across the state, researchers cover a variety of aspects of agriculture, ranging from crop to livestock production. Over 150 different projects demand the time and effort by these dedicated researchers at this time. Through sound science and a problem solving attitude these researchers expand the knowledge base for all of agriculture and those affected by it on a daily basis.

In this critical time in production agriculture while depressed crop and livestock prices are driving agriculture producers from their operations, it is all the more essential that we encourage the research taking place at the experiment stations. As we enter a new millennium we must develop ways for producers to afford and adapt to the technological advancements that can make United States agriculture more competitive. This is crucial in order for South Dakota to compete in the ever-changing global market.

The research and knowledge gained from these experiment stations benefit not only agriculture producers, but also consumers living in rural towns and urban cities. Learning from the past and building towards the future is a daily mission at the Highmore Experiment Station. I applaud the efforts of each researcher and all of those who dedicated their time and effort to this farm in the last 100 years. I extend my best wishes to the Central Research Station in Highmore for another 100 years of successful research and service to South Dakota agriculture.●

THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE 5TH BOMB WING, MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA, TO OPERATION ALLIED FORCE

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Secretary of Defense has described our military action in Kosovo as the most accurate application of Air Power in history. The men and women of the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot, North Dakota, were critical to that effort, and the citizens of this state and our entire country are justifiably proud of their efforts.

The B–52 bombing raids on Yugoslavian positions on June 7, 1999, undoubtedly hastened the decision by Yugoslavia to sign the NATO peace agreement ending the conflict. As the Washington Post reported on the significance of the strike, ''Two days later, Yugoslav generals formally agreed to withdraw all forces from Kosovo.'' The Washington Post Article entitled, ''NATO's Most Lethal Airstrike Ended a Battle, Perhaps a War,'' reported that the B–52 attack on Mount Pastrik was the turning point in the Kosovo conflict.

Like the ''Linebacker'' operations in Vietnam, the unmatched striking power of the B–52 bomber convinced the enemy that negotiation was preferable to suffering the business end of over 70,000 pounds of munitions. The crews of the B–52 bombers that carried out their missions in Kosovo proved the anecdote again, ''That bomber pilots make history.''

In recognizing the efforts of the crews and support personnel of the 5th Bomb Wing, we cannot forget the sacrifices made by the families and loved ones left behind. Today's professional All-Volunteer Air Force is a different organization than the one that preceded it. More times than not, when an Air Force member deploys, he or she leaves behind a spouse and small children who depend on them, who miss them, and who pray for their safe return. We in the Senate owe a debt of gratitude to those brave families who